Glossary

A

active capacity: The reservoir capacity that can be used for irrigation, power, municipal and industrial use, fish and wildlife, recreation, water quality, and other purposes.

additional water acquisition (AWA): Additional water acquisitions provide additional flows to meet target flows upstream where the shiner are found, to avoid intermittency in the river, and, at a minimum, to keep flows in the critical habitat.

additional water needed (AWN): If the demand needed to achieve the flow target stipulated by an alternative is not completely met, the additional water needed is referred to as AWN.

acequia: An irrigation ditch or canal.

acre-foot: The volume of water which would cover an area of 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot; equal to 43,500 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons.

active conservation storage: Water storage for later release for purposes such as municipal and industrial (M&I) uses, hydropower, or irrigation.

affected environment: Existing biological, physical, social, and economic conditions of an area subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as the result of a proposed human action. Also, the chapter in an environmental impact statement describing current environmental conditions.

air quality: Measure of the health-related and visual characteristics of the air, often derived from quantitative measurements of the concentrations of specific injurious or contaminating substances.

algae: Mostly aquatic single celled, colonial, or multicelled plants, containing chlorophyll and lacking stems, roots, and leaves.

algal bloom: Rapid and flourishing growth of algae. A heavy growth of algae in and on a body of water as a result of high nutrient concentrations such as from farm fertilizers and detergents.

alternatives: Courses of action which may meet the objectives of a proposal at varying levels of accomplishment. Alternatives include no action, the most likely future conditions without the project or action.

anthropogenic: Human-created.

aquatic: Living or growing in or on the water.

aquifer: Stratum or zone below the surface of the earth containing water.

archaic: In American archeology, a cultural stage following the earliest known human occupation in the New World (about 5,500 B.C. to A.D. 100). This stage was characterized by a hunting and gathering lifestyle and seasonal movement to take advantage of a variety of resources.

archeology: Study of human cultures through the recovery and analysis of their material relics.

artifact: A human-made object.

augment: To increase in size, quantity, or strength.

average hydrologic condition: Effective Brantley storage is greater than 75,000 acre-feet and less than 110,000 acre-feet.

B

bank storage: Volumes of water which are temporarily retained by reservoir or stream banks and may be gradually released to partially sustain base inflow.

bank storage flux: Flow of bank storage into or out of the bank.

base inflow: Water which may seep from the ground-water aquifer to a river or stream.

bench-leveled: Nearly level terraces.

Biological Opinion: This is a document that is part of the section 7 consultation process required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Section 7 of the Act is specific to Federal agency actions. The BO is required by Federal law anytime a Federal agency proposes an action which "may affect" a listed species or its habitat. It includes: (1) the opinion of the Fish and Wildlife Service as to whether or not a Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat; (2) a summary of the information on which the opinion is based;

and (3) a detailed discussion of the effects of the action on listed species or designated critical habitat [50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 402.02, 50 CFR section 402.14(h)]

block release: Large-volume releases of water from northern reservoirs (i.e. Santa Rosa Reservoir and Sumner Lake) made over a number of days to transmit water downstream to Brantley Reservoir and subsequently to irrigators.

block release efficiency: The ratio of the volume of water released from a reservoir as a block release to the amount of water which reaches the downstream endpoint; usually smaller-volume block releases have lower efficiency, due to the relative amount of evaporation from the water surface and seepage.

bypass(ing): Water that is not diverted at a structure but is allowed to flow downstream.

C

caliche: A hard deposit, mostly consisting of crusted calcium carbonate found in the subsoil in arid regions. It is created by the evaporation of mineral-laden capillary water, which leaves a residue that serves as a cementing material.

Carlsbad Project: Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID) operates the Carlsbad Project to provide water for water users who are members of CID. The Secretary of the Interior authorized the Carlsbad Project for the purpose of irrigation in 1905.

Reclamation owns the Carlsbad Project dams and reservoirs, and CID operates the dams and reservoirs. Carlsbad Project operations include diverting to storage and releasing water to deliver project water to CID water users.

Carlsbad Project water acquisition (CPWA): CPWAs provide water to the Carlsbad Project for use in CID in compensation for depletions incurred as a result of changes in operations.

candidate species: Plant or animal species that are not yet officially listed but which are undergoing a status review as published in the Federal Register by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are candidates for possible addition to the list of threatened and endangered species.

channelization: Straightening a stream or river to allow water to travel through the area more quickly.

channel storage: The volume of water at a given time in a river channel.

community: A group of one or more interacting populations of plants and animals in a common spatial arrangement at a particular point in time.

concentration: Relative quantities of physicochemical parameters. The density or amount of a substance in a solution.

conserve: Conserving the shiner means that Reclamation would ensure that any discretionary action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Reclamation would continue to participate in interagency actions to protect federally-listed species and designated critical habitats, within their legal and discretionary authority.

conservation spill: Water that is released from a reservoir to meet irrigation demand.

conservation storage: The allowable entitlement or "conservation storage" limit is the amount of water that the Carlsbad Project can store for irrigation. For example, the portion of conservation storage allocated for the Carlsbad Project in the Santa Rosa Reservoir is approximately 100,000 acre-feet. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs is approximately 500,000 acre-feet, which includes the allocation for Carlsbad Project water and the flood pool. The Carlsbad Project is limited to 176,500 acre-feet of storage by the Pecos River Compact.

consumptive irrigation requirement: The amount of irrigation water, exclusive of precipitation, stored soil moisture, or ground water, needed consumptively for crop production.

cooperative agreement: Formal document that states the obligations of Reclamation to one or more other parties. A cooperative agreement provides the authority for the Bureau of Reclamation to issue funding to the other party(ies) listed in the agreement. The legal instrument used to reflect a relationship between the Federal Government and a state, local, or tribal government or other recipient whenever the principal purpose of the relationship is the transfer of money, property, services, or anything of value to a recipient to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal law; and substantial involvement is anticipated between the Federal Government, and the state, local, or tribal government, or other recipient during performance of the contemplated activity.

critical habitat: Defined in section 3(5)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) as:

(1) The specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical and biological features

essential to the conservation of the listed species and which may require special management considerations for protection; and

(2) Specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by a species at the time it is listed upon a determination by the Secretary of the Department of Interior that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. These areas have been legally designated via Federal Register notices.

cubic foot per second (cfs): As a rate of streamflow, a cubic foot of water passing a reference section in 1 second of time; 1 cfs = 2 acre-feet per day; 651,702 gallons per day. A measure of a moving volume of water (1 cfs = 0.0283 cubic meter per second);

cultural resource: Any building, site, district, structure, or object significant in history, architecture, archeology, culture, or science.

cumulative impact: The incremental additive impacts of the proposed project and other projects in the area of influence. Cumulative impacts are reasonably foreseeable in the future. For example, a new highway may be proposed and have direct impacts on the project corridor. Cumulative impacts would include other projects and activities expected to occur in the general vicinity of the project corridor such as other road construction, new residential developments, shopping centers, and associated infrastructure, such as electric and water utilities.

cyprinid: Any of a family of freshwater bony fishes, including carp, minnows, and dace.

D

delta: A formation created by sediment deposit and/or channel incision at a river mouth from upstream erosion.

detention: Storage of streamflow or surface runoff, and control of the release of such stored water. Used for flood regulation.

depletion: The loss of water from surface water reservoirs or ground-water aquifers.

discharge: All water that passes a specific location, including all water that flows out of a particular facility. In the case of a lake or reservoir, discharge includes all water that passes through the outlet facilities, passes over the spillway, is pumped from the reservoir, seeps through the dam or foundation into the stream, or in any other fashion flows from the lake or reservoir into the stream channel downstream from the lake or reservoir. Expressed in acre-feet per year.

dissolved oxygen (DO): Amount of free oxygen in water.

diversion: A structure in a river or canal that diverts water from the river or canal to another watercourse.

dry hydrologic condition: Effective Brantley storage is less than 75,000 acre-feet.

E

economic benefits: Economic benefits attempt to measure changes in societal or national welfare based on net value concepts, including consumer surplus and producer profitability.

ecosystem: Complex system composed of a community of animals and plants as well as the chemical and physical environment.

efficiency: Ratio of useful energy output to total energy input, usually expressed as a percent. Effective operation as measured by a comparison of production with cost.

electrical conductivity (EC): In the context that it is being used in the EIS, EC stands for specific electrical conductivity (or conductance). As this indicated, it is a measure of the ability of water to conduct electricity. The conductivity of water varies with temperature; the term "specific" means that the reading has been corrected (or standardized) to a temperature of 25 degrees Celsius (°C). Pure water does not conduct electricity. The ability of water to conduct electricity is proportional to the amount of salts (also known as electrolytes) dissolved in the water.

employment: Total of hourly wage, salary, and self-employed jobs (part-time and full-time), measured in terms of jobs, not full-time equivalents

endangered species: A species or subspecies whose survival is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

environmental assessment (EA): A NEPA compliance document used to determine if an action would have a significant effect on the human environment. If not, a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is written. If so, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is written.

environmental impact statement (EIS): A NEPA compliance document used to evaluate a range of alternatives when solving the problem would have a significant effect on the human environment. The EIS is more than a document, it is a formal analysis process which mandates public comment periods. An EIS

covers purpose and need, alternatives, existing conditions, environmental consequences, and consultation and coordination.

environmental justice: Executive Order 12898 defines Federal agency responsibilities with respect to environmental justice. Federal agencies are expected to identify and address disproportionate high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

ephemeral: Streams that contain running water only for brief periods of time in direct response to precipitation.

erosion: Refers to soil and the wearing away of the land surface by water, wind, ice, or other physical processes.

eutrophication: Overenrichment of a lake or other water body with nutrients, resulting in excessive growth of organisms and depletion of oxygen.

evaporation: A part of the hydrologic cycle in which liquid water is converted to vapor and enters the atmosphere.

evapotranspiration: A collective term that includes water discharged to the atmosphere as a result of evaporation from the soil and surface-water bodies and as a result of plant transpiration.

extirpated: A species of plant or animal that is no longer found in a particular area.

F

facilities: Manmade structures, such as dams, spillways, and outlet works.

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Species of Concern: Species identified by the FWS for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve these species' conservation status.

flood plain: Nearly level land, susceptible to floods, that forms the bottom of a valley. An area, adjoining a body of water or natural stream, that has been or may be covered by floodwater.

flow frequency: The probability of a certain flow rate occurring at a given location, based on historical data.

flow frequency curve: A graph showing the number of times per 100 years, or the average interval of times within which a flood of a given magnitude will be equaled or exceeded.

G

gage: Specific location on a stream where systematic observations of hydrologic data are obtained through mechanical or electrical means.

geomorphology: Geological study of the configuration, characteristics, origin, and evolution of land forms and earth features.

ground water: Water beneath the ground, consisting mostly of surface water that has seeped down.

ground-water recharge: The flow to ground water storage from precipitation, infiltration from streams, and other sources of water.

ground-water/surface-water interaction: the exchange or mixing of water between the ground water (such as an aquifer) and the surface water (such as a river or lake); one common example is through seepage into or out of a river bottom.

H

habitat: The area or type of environment in which a plant or animal normally lives or occurs.

historic properties: Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe and that meet the National Register of Historic Places criteria.

hydrologic: Pertaining to the quantity, quality, and timing of water.

hypolimnion: The lower layer of a stratified lake. In a thermally stratified lake, this layer is coldest. In a salinity stratified lake, this layer has the highest salt concentration.

incidental take: Refers to the anticipated loss or killing of a federally protected species that results from carrying out an otherwise lawful activity conducted by the Federal agency or applicant.

incubation: Eggs in the process of hatching.

Indian tribe: An Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

indigenous: Native plant or animal species.

intermittency: As used in this document, a period of no flow (i.e., 0 cubic foot per second).

invertebrate: An animal lacking a spinal column.

irrigation district: A cooperative, self-governing public corporation set up as a subdivision of the State government, with definite geographic boundaries, organized and having taxing power to obtain and distribute water for irrigation of lands within the district; created under the authority of a State legislature with the consent of a designated fraction of the landowners or citizens.

irrigation season: March 1 thru October 31 each year.

J

jeopardy opinion: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service opinion that an action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The opinion includes reasonable and prudent alternatives, if any.

K

L

lacustrine: Of or pertaining to a lake.

lake: A relatively large natural body of water.

laminar flow. Flow in which the head loss is proportional to the first power of the velocity. The flow field can be characterized by layers of fluid, one layer not mixing with adjacent ones. The flow is laminar or turbulent depending on the

value of the Reynolds number, which is a dimensionless ratio of the inertial forces to the viscous forces. In laminar flow, viscous forces are dominant and the Reynolds number is relatively small. In turbulent flow, the inertial forces are very much greater than the viscous forces and the Reynolds number is large. Laminar flow occurs very infrequently in open channel flow.

land classification: Reclamation's systematic placing of lands into classes based on their suitability for sustained irrigated farming. Land classes are defined by productivity, with Class 1 being the most productive. For other classes, the equivalent acreage to Class 1 for the same productivity is defined (Class 1 equivalency). For example, (the productivity of) X acres of Class 2 land is equal to (the productivity of) 1 acre of Class 1 land.

life history: Life cycles through which organisms pass, with emphasis on reproduction and survival mechanisms.

lithic: Physical characteristics of specified sedimentary rock or formations, including grain or crystal size, mineral constituents, and bedding planes.

lower critical habitat: Pecos River reach 37 miles long, from Hagerman, New Mexico, to Artesia, New Mexico.

M

M&I: Municipal and industrial use.

microSiemens: The typical measure of electrical conductivity in fresh water. 1 Siemens/cm is equal to the reciprocal of 1 ohm of resistance per cm. 1 µS/cm is 1 millionth of a Siemens/cm.

mesohabitat: Habitat types that provide suitable combinations of microhabitat features such as depth, velocity, substrate, turbulence, cover, and food.

mitigation (measures): Action taken to avoid, reduce the severity of, or eliminate an adverse impact. Mitigation can include one or more of the following:

(1) avoiding impacts

(2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of an action

(3) rectifying impacts by restoration, rehabilitation, or repair of the affected environment

(4) reducing or eliminating impacts over time

(5) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments to offset the loss

modeling: Use of mathematical equations to simulate and predict real events and processes.

multipurpose project: A project designed for irrigation, power, flood control, municipal and industrial, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits, in any combinations of two or more (contrasted to single-purpose projects serving only one need).

N

National Register of Historic Places: A federally maintained register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, architecture, archeology, and culture.

No Action Alternative: The most likely future conditions without the project or action.

nonirrigation season: November 1 through February 28 each year.

O

overgrazing: Excessive grazing use of area by livestock, resulting in detrimental impacts on the environment.

overstory: The portion of the trees or shrubs that form the uppermost portion of the canopy layer.

oxbow: 1. A bow-shaped bend in the river. 2. A bow-shaped lake formed in an abandoned channel of the river.

P

Pecos River Compact (Compact): An interstate agreement between New Mexico and Texas that was later approved by the Congress in the Act of June 9, 1949. The Compact apportions Pecos River water between the two States. The major purposes of this Compact are to provide for the equitable division and apportionment of the use of the waters of the Pecos River; to promote interstate (New Mexico and Texas) comity; to remove causes of present and future controversies; to make secure and protect present development within the States;

to facilitate the construction of works for (a) the salvage of water, (b) the more efficient use of water, and (c) the protection of life and property from floods.

perennial: Refers to plants that have a life cycle that lasts for more than 2 years.

pool elevation: The elevation of the water surface in a reservoir.

population viability: Probability that a population will persist for a specified period across its range despite normal fluctuations in population and environmental conditions.

potentiometric: Measurement of an electromotive force by comparison with a known potential difference.

potentiometric surface: A surface that represents the level to which water will rise; the water table is an example of a potentiometric surface in an unconfined aquifer.

precipitation: Liquid or solid water particles that fall from the atmosphere and reach the Earth's surface. It includes drizzle, rain, snow, snow pellets, snow grains, ice crystals, ice pellets, and hail.

predation: The consumption of one organism (the prey) by another (predator).

prior water rights: Senior water rights.

public involvement: Process of obtaining citizen input into each stage of development of planning documents. Required as a major input into any EIS.

pump-back operation: A return-flow operation in which tailwater is pumped back to the head of an irrigation ditch for reuse.

Q

quality habitat: Meets all criteria for critical habitat.

R

ramp down: Decrease of flow rates of block releases of water.

ramp up: Increase of flow rates of block releases of water.

raptor: Any predatory bird, such as a falcon, eagle, hawk, or owl, that has feet with sharp talons or claws and a hooked beak.

reach: Any specified length of a stream, river, channel, or other water conveyance.

reasonable and prudent alternative: The regulations implementing section 7 of the Endangered Species Act define reasonable and prudent alternatives as alternative actions, identified during formal consultation, that (1) can be implemented in a manner consistent with the intended purpose of the action, (2) can be implemented consistent with the scope of the action agency's legal authority, (3) are economically and technologically feasible, and (4) would, NMFS believes, avoid the likelihood of jeopardizing the continued existence of listed species and avert the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

recruitment: Survival of young plants and animals from birth to a life stage less vulnerable to environmental change.

release: The portion of the discharge from a lake or reservoir that supplies identified demands (for diversions, storage, instream flow, flood control). Expressed in cfs.

reptile: Coldblooded vertebrate of the class Reptilia, comprised of turtles, snakes, lizards, and crocodiles.

reservoir: Artificially impounded body of water.

reservoir storage capacity, conservation: The total volume within a reservoir specifically set aside for a project (for example, the Carlsbad Project can store up to a certain amount of water in a reservoir for its irrigation purposes).

reservoir storage capacity, total: The total volume of water that can be stored in a reservoir.

resident: A wildlife species commonly found in an area during a particular time; summer, winter, or year round.

residual: The difference between the measured and predicted values of some quantity.

resource indicator: A particular measure of a resource used to assess impacts on the overall resource.

return flow: The water that reaches a ground or surface water source after release from the point of use and thus becomes available for further use.

riparian: Of, on, or pertaining to the bank of a river, pond, or lake.

riparian corridor: River and streams with their associated vegetation.

riverine: Pertaining to a river.

rodents: Small mammals with incisors such as mice, squirrels, and beavers.

roost site: Place where a bat or bird will rest during the day or night, typically protected from weather and predators.

runoff: The discharge of incident precipitation that occurred over a land area or water which travels over the ground surface to a channel (or other water collection structure). That part of precipitation that appears in surface streams. Runoff contributes to streamflow, groundwater, lakes, and reservoir storage.

S

sacred site: See Executive Order 13007. Any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site.

saline: Bodies of water which have excessive or high salt concentrations.

salinity: A measure of the quantity of the total dissolved solids or salts in water.

scour: Water forces removing debris and sediments from a channel.

sediment: Unconsolidated solid material that comes from weathering of rock and is carried by, suspended in, or deposited by water or wind.

self-sustaining: Maintaining a population of organisms by natural means.

significance: This term, as used in NEPA, requires considerations of both context and intensity. *Context*. The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. *Intensity*. This refers to the severity of the impact—that is, the degree to which the action affects public health or safety, or sensitive environmental resources.

site: In archeology, any location of past human activity.

slough: An inlet or backwater swamp, bog, or marsh. In the Southwest, it tends to be synonymous with a wash.

snag: A standing dead tree.

soil sodicity: The presence of excess sodium.

spawn: To lay eggs, especially in reference to fish.

special status species: Rare animal and plant species that have been identified by Federal or State agencies as needing protective measures. Special status species as defined and used in this document, include the following:

- Plant and animal species listed as federal threatened or endangered under provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).
- Plant and animal species proposed for listing as federal threatened or endangered under the ESA with the proposed listing published in the Federal Register.
- Animal species listed as state endangered or threatened under provisions of New Mexico Statutory Chapter 17, Article 2:17-17-2-37 through 17-2-46.
- Plant species listed as state endangered under provisions of New Mexico Statutory Chapter 75, Article 6: 17-6-1.
- Species designated as sensitive or species of concern by State and/or Federal management

spill: Water that is released from a reservoir, either inadvertently or through precautionary releases, in excess of that required to compensate for system losses and to meet irrigation demand.

stock: See strain.

storage: The retention of water or delay of runoff either by planned operation, as in a reservoir, or by temporary filling of overflow areas, as in the progression of a flood wave through a natural stream channel. See “reservoir capacity.”

strain: A genetically distinct group of fish maintained as a self-sustaining, interbreeding population with definable characteristics, through either artificial or natural production (also called stock).

stranding: The isolation of an organism out of its original habitat, generally caused by an event such as high flows which then decline, intermittent streamflows, changes in habitat, or other event.

stratification: The formation of separate layers in a lake or reservoir. In thermal stratification, cold water, which is denser than warm water, sinks, forming a layer at the bottom. In salinity stratification, saline water (which is denser than fresh water) forms a layer at the bottom.

streamflow: Water flowing within the bounds of a channel (mostly natural channels). Contributing components of streamflow include tributaries from other streams, baseflow (from groundwater), surface runoff, and direct precipitation.

T

terrestrial: Growing or living on land.

thermocline: Boundary layer in a lake in which the temperature changes sharply with depth.

threatened species: Any species which could become endangered in the near future.

threshold of significance: A quantitative or qualitative standard, or set of criteria, pursuant to which the significance of a given environmental effect may be determined.

tilth: Physical condition of the soil in respect to its fitness for the growth of a specific crop.

topographic: Measuring and displaying on maps of physical surface features such as rivers, mountains, or roads.

total dissolved solids (TDS): The total concentration of solids (or salts) dissolved in water. Specific conductance is a surrogate measure of dissolved solids. This value is an aggregate of carbonates, bicarbonates, chlorides, sulfates, phosphates, calcium, magnesium, manganese, sodium, potassium, and other cations that form salts in water.

total storage: The volume of a reservoir below the maximum controllable storage, including dead storage.

traditional cultural property: A site or resource that is eligible for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places* because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community.

transient: A wildlife species not commonly found in an area but which may occasionally pass through.

transmission depletion: Water that is lost, generally to seepage to the ground and/or evaporation from the water surface, when water is transported downstream.

transmission efficiency: The ratio of the amount of water that reaches the (downstream) endpoint to the amount of water that was released at the (upstream) starting point.

transpiration: The process by which water is absorbed by plants, usually through the roots, and is evaporated into the atmosphere from the plant surface, usually from the leaves.

trophic: Of or pertaining to nutrition.

trophic dynamics: Nourishment dynamics of the various segments of the food chain.

tributary: River or stream flowing into a larger river or stream.

turbidity: The measure of how much the water scatters light; it is due to both the amount and shape of suspended solids.

U

unconfined aquifer: An aquifer containing water that is not under pressure; the water level in a well is the same as the water table outside the well. An aquifer that discharges and recharges with an upper surface that is the water table.

upper critical habitat: Upper portion of critical habitat for Pecos bluntnose shiner; 64 miles long, from the Taiban Creek confluence downstream.

V

vertebrate: An animal having a segmented backbone or vertebral column. Includes mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles.

W

"watch list" species: A U.S. Forest Service term to indicate plant species of limited distribution.

water quality standard: In water quality regulations, waters are assigned specified uses, such as municipal, irrigation, etc. Each use has various water quality criteria associated with it. When a water body or river reach is assigned a specified use, the criteria become water quality standards for that water body or river reach.

water table: The depth below which the ground is saturated with water.

water year: Period of time beginning October 1 of one year and ending September 30 of the following year and designated by the calendar year in which it ends.

wet hydrologic condition: Effective Brantley storage is greater than 110,000 acre-feet.

wetland habitat: Habitat provided by shallow or deep water (but less than 6 feet deep), with or without emergent and aquatic vegetation in wetlands.

wetlands: Lands transitional between aquatic and terrestrial systems where the water table is usually at or near the land surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Often called marshes or wet meadows.